

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL  
JUNE 17, 2014

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, Stephen R. Jordan, Ronald Sipkema, John Price and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Jasper County Auditor, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donya Jordan. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and Mr. Sipkema led those present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Stalbaum made the motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Andree seconded this motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:** NONE

**TRANSFERS:**

**COUNTY GENERAL/CIRCUIT COURT/CASA BUDGET:** Circuit Court Judge Potter requested transfers from the Other Services and Charges (CASA Program-1000-216-430-439-0-0215) Category to the following categories: Personal Services (CASA Director-1000-216-410-0-1526) in the amount of \$4,000.00, Supplies (CASA Office Supplies-1000-216-420-421-0-1527) in the amount of \$1,000.00 and Capital Outlays (CASA Equipment-1000-216-440-445-0-1539) in the amount of \$2,500.00. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve these transfers. Mr. DeVries seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**PURCHASE AGREEMENT OF 129 WEST HARRISON STREET, RENSSELAER, INDIANA:** Commissioner Culp stated there are no environmental issues with this property. At this time, the commissioners have no plans for the property but feel this purchase is in the interest of future growth for Jasper County Government. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve the Purchase Agreement between the Estate of Ralph E. Donnelly and Jasper County for the purchase of the real estate located at 129 W. Harrison St., Rensselaer, Indiana. The purchase amount is \$42,500.00. Mr. Sipkema seconded this motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT:** Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve the amendment to the salary ordinance to add the hourly rates for the CASA Administrative Assistant. This is a part time position. The hourly rates are \$15.20 for the minimum, \$15.81 for the middle and \$16.43 for the maximum. The department head can pay less than the minimum set by the council as long as it is at the least the minimum wage set by the federal government but they can't pay above the maximum wage set by the council. Mr. Jordan seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**BZA APPOINTMENT:** Mary Scheurich notified the council by letter about replacing Eric Maple, who is the council appoint to the BZA Board. She stated he hasn't been attending the meetings like he should. The council decided President Bontreger would contact Mr. Maple about his interest in serving on this board. If he isn't interested then they will find someone to replace him.

**2015 COUNCIL BUDGET:** The council budget paperwork was presented for the president to sign for submission.

**TREASURER'S ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR MAY:** President Bontreger stated the council was in error when they decided to eliminate the treasurer's taxing website at last month's meeting. This is the commissioners' responsibility. Mr. Sipkema made a motion to rescind his last month's meeting motion to eliminate this website with Mr. Andree seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Andree made a motion to deny last month's additional appropriation request made by Treasurer Anderson in the amount of \$3,000.00 to update the website weekly. Mr. Stalbaum seconded this motion. Motion was approved with Mr. Price voting nay.

**PUBLIC HEARING-REESTABLISHMENT OF THE CUMULATIVE BIRDGE FUND:** The commissioners set the rate for this fund starting with the 2014 pay 2015 tax year at the same rate that is currently being assessed which is .01 percent per \$100.00 assessed valuation. Commissioner Culp stated there are no bridges that need any major improvements at this time. There was no public comment. Mr. Stalbaum made a motion to approve this rate with Mr. Sipkema seconding. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING-REESTABLISHMENT OF THE CUMULATIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND:** The commissioners set the rate for this fund starting with the 2014 pay 2015 tax year at the same rate that is currently being assessed which is .0385 percent per \$100.00 assessed valuation. It was explained this money is used to pay for county road materials. There was no public comment. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve this rate with Mr. Price seconding. Motion carried unanimously.

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**JASPER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMPANY:** Kevin Kelly announced Con Agra will be expanding its Rensselaer Facility. The Dollar General Store located on Highway 114 should be opening on June 18<sup>th</sup> and Taco Bell will be opening at the end of July. He then updated the board on the work of the tourism commission.

**AIR SHOW:** Kevin Kelly is looking for volunteers to work at the tourism booth at the air show handing out information on attractions and hotels in Jasper County. Mr. Cozza, the airport manager stated he is finishing up the loose ends for the air show.

**COMMISSIONER UPDATE:** Commissioner Walstra told the council that the work EMCOR is doing at the jail is near completion and EMCOR will be doing a energy study on the courthouse.

**2014 PAY 2015 ABATEMENTS:** The paperwork for the 2014 pay 2015 abatements was distributed for the council to review before next month's meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**TEBORG DISTRIBUTING ABATEMENT:** Tom Mathis, a concerned citizen questioned the abatement amount that Terborg Distributing received on their parcel for the 2013 pay 2014 tax year. He thought they were only to receive \$170,000.00 off their assessment on the new addition instead of \$611,100.00 off of the whole assessment of the building. Deputy Jordan will check with Tony Garrison at Nexus to ask about the calculation and report back next month.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Mr. Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Andree seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County